

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace Paragraph [0186] with the following paragraph rewritten in amendment format:

[0186] Figure 21 shows a sensing mechanism 12g including a transmitter or depth sensor 214 ~~that senses if a human extremity is in close proximity to a rotating saw blade 208.~~ Transmitter 214 is shown operatively associated with table saw 10g and is operable to monitor the depth (thickness) of an item such as the workpiece 218 that is being fed into saw blade 208. In one example, the depth sensor 214 may be configured to measure a depth of an item just prior to contacting the saw blade 208. In another example, the depth sensor may be configured to measure a depth of an item as it is being cut by the saw blade 208. It can be appreciated that, the item being measured may be a combination of the work piece 218 and a human extremity. In most cutting operations, the thickness of the workpiece 218 that is being cut is relatively consistent. When a measured depth of the item remains substantially unchanged, operation of the saw blade 208 continues under normal operation. If, however, the depth sensor 214 measures a change in depth of an item proximate to the saw blade 208, the sensing mechanism 12g determines that the item measured may be a combination of the workpiece 218 and a human extremity. As a result, it can be determined that a human extremity may be too close to the blade 208. In this way, if depth sensor 214 detects a sudden change in the depth (thickness) of the workpiece 218, item being fed into the saw blade 208, switch 216 is activated to stop saw blade 208 as a precautionary measure to prevent contact of human extremities with saw blade 208. It is appreciated that switch 216 may also comprise any of the safety mechanisms 14 disclosed herein.